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**Human rights questions: implementation of
human rights instruments**

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/56/150.

** The present report is being submitted on 20 July 2001 so as to include as much up-to-date information as possible concerning the recent session and recommendations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 June 2001.



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I. Mandate of the Fund

1. In its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery with the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals and providing financial assistance to representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions that deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, as well as extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid, through established channels of assistance, to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. The present report on the financial status and activities of the Fund includes information on the participation of beneficiaries of grants from the Fund in the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group, held in Geneva from 11 to 15 June 2001, and on the consideration by the Working Group of its relevant agenda item on the Fund.

II. Administration and Board of Trustees

2. Pursuant to resolution 46/122, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial rules and regulations of the United Nations on general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the advice of a Board of Trustees.

3. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. The current members of the Board, appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution are: Swami Agnivesh (Chairman), Theo van Boven, Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara, Tatiana Matveeva and José de Souza Martins.

III. Beneficiaries

4. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 (see also the annex to the present report on criteria, practices and guidelines), the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery, and individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. Grant cycle

5. Applications for travel and for project grants for 2002 must be submitted by 15 September 2001 for analysis by the secretariat of the Fund and Board (for contact details, see paras. 36 and 37 below). Admissible applications will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to be held from 21 to 25 January 2002. At that session, the Board will adopt recommendations for grants, which will then be submitted for approval to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in February/March 2002. Beneficiaries of project grants have then to provide satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 November 2002. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid.

V. Payment of contributions

6. In order to meet the requirements of the above-mentioned grant cycle and to meet new requests for financing during a current year, new voluntary contributions should be paid to the Fund by the end of November in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer well in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions that cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be considered by it at its next annual session.

VI. Sixth session of the Board of Trustees

7. The Board of Trustees met in Geneva from 22 to 26 January 2001. The Board needed 10 meetings (as compared with 8 in 2000) to examine all the information prepared by its secretariat concerning the use of grants paid in 1999 and 2000; applications for new travel and project grants; the financial situation of the Fund, including new contributions paid by Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals; the implementation by the secretariat of the Board and Fund of the recommendations approved in 2000; and the revised application forms for travel and project grants for 2002. The Board met with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, representatives of donors Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, including students of the Istituto Tecnico Commerciale Oscar Romero (Albino, Italy) who became regular donors to the Fund. The Board also met with staff members of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights servicing the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, programmes on trafficking and children in armed conflict and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2001. The Board held an informal meeting with members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to exchange information on the mandate and practice of the two expert organs. Hearings were also organized with representatives of the following international non-governmental organizations: Anti-Slavery International, NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE).

8. The Board expressed satisfaction with the documentation prepared for its sixth session, in particular the information on the use of previous grants paid in 1999 and 2000 and on applications for new travel and project grants.

9. The Board reviewed narrative and financial reports on four project grants awarded in 1999. It recommended the closure of three project files as the reports submitted were found to be satisfactory. The Board also reviewed narrative and financial reports on the use of the 17 project grants awarded in 2000. It decided to close three project files and recommended

that its secretariat continue to follow up on the other projects.

10. According to information available in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the amount available for grants at the sixth session of the Board was approximately \$285,000, which included new contributions received (see table 1).

11. At its sixth session, the Board examined 33 new admissible applications for travel grants to attend the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group, amounting to approximately \$73,000, and 23 applications for project grants, amounting to approximately \$330,000.

12. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/122 and other approved selection criteria (see annex I), the Board's recommendations focused on assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the 26th session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, held from 11 to 15 June 2001, as well as on extending, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights had been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. The Board noted that the Working Group had decided at its twenty-fifth session¹ to examine as a matter of priority, at its twenty-sixth session, in 2001, the issue of trafficking in persons, with the active participation of non-governmental organizations and victims of trafficking, in preparation for the proposed United Nations year against trafficking in persons. The Board also noted that the Group had decided to keep under consideration at its twenty-sixth session the question of debt bondage, the role of corruption in the perpetuation of slavery and slavery-like practices, problems affecting migrant workers, the protection of child labourers, forced labour, trafficking in human organs and issues, forced marriages, ways to combat sexual abuse of children inside the family and the urgent need for adequate help to be offered to victims of such practices.

13. On the basis of the recommendations made by the Board, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights approved \$25,715 for 13 travel grants and \$148,700 for 18 project grants, for a total amount of \$174,415. Those project and travel grants will assist non-governmental organizations in 15 countries in

Table 1
Contributions available at the sixth session of the Board
 (United States dollars)

<i>State</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>Date of payment</i>	<i>Contribution number</i>
Bahrain	3 000	Geneva	24 October 2000	1st
Brazil	10 000	Geneva	22 December 2000	1st
Cyprus	4 000	Geneva	8 December 2000	2nd
Japan	50 000	New York	9 June 2000	3rd
Netherlands	38 464	Geneva	13 December 2000	3rd
Poland	5 000	Geneva	24 October 2000	2nd
South Africa	9 550	Geneva	3 April 2000	3rd
Subtotal	120 014			
<i>Non-governmental organizations and individuals</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>Date of payment</i>	<i>Contribution number</i>
Students of the Archway School	1 020	Geneva	23 June 2000	1st
Students of the Istituto Tecnico Commerciale Oscar Romero	459	Geneva	21 December 2000	4th
Kansai Electric Power Dispute Committee	1 840	Geneva	9 August 2000	3rd
Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	1 840	Geneva	26 September 2000	
Lullin Kelemen	150	Geneva	26 October 2000	1st
Daniel Prémont	120	Geneva	13 April 2000	1st
Aldo and Giovanna Salvadori	7 184	Geneva	30 August 2000	1st
Hisae Saito/League Demanding State Compensation for the Victims of the Public Order Maintenance Law	305	Geneva	14 August 2000	1st
Yorio Shiokawa	299	Geneva	12 September 2000	3rd
Valeria Spinelli Catani	172	Geneva	4 August 2000	1st
Halima Warzazi	500	Geneva	10 July 2000	2nd
Subtotal	13 889			
Total	113 903			

Africa, America, Asia and Europe. The list of beneficiaries appears in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session.² The list of travel grants approved indicates the names of the representatives and of their organization and the theme to be presented at the Working Group. The list of project grants gives the titles of the projects or aspects covered, the names of the organizations and the amounts of the grants.

14. The High Commissioner approved the recommendation that members of the Board or the secretariat of the Fund visit projects in order to better evaluate the work planned and carried out. A provisional amount of \$32,000 has been allocated for that purpose.

15. In accordance with United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, 13 per cent of estimated annual expenditures in 2001 were set aside for programme support costs related to the servicing of the Fund and 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures were set aside as a reserve for 2002. The balance available for the seventh session for the Board, in January 2002, is approximately \$20,000.

16. The Board recommended that a new fact sheet or brochure on the activities of the Fund be prepared, for information and fund-raising purposes, in a sufficient number of copies for wide dissemination to non-governmental organizations and donors, and that Fact Sheet No. 14 on contemporary forms of slavery should be revised to include a chapter on the activities of the Fund and Board.

17. The Board recommended that issues of contemporary forms of slavery receive due attention in the preparatory process leading to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and that information on the Fund should be prepared in that respect.

VII. Approval and implementation of recommendations

18. All the recommendations made by the Board of Trustees at its sixth session were approved on 30 January 2001 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the

Secretary-General. The recommendations adopted are available in the report of the Secretary-General on the Fund to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Specific groups and individuals, other vulnerable groups and individuals".³ At the time of the drafting of the present report, almost all project and travel grants had been paid. A few were kept pending until receipt of additional information requested from the applicants by the Board.

19. The Board noted with satisfaction that, thanks to new contributions from regular and new donors, fund-raising initiatives by the High Commissioner, the Board and the Fund's secretariat, as well as the increase in the number of new applications, it has been able to recommend more grants than in previous years. Table 2 shows the increase.

Table 2
Grants approved, 1997-2001

(United States dollars)

Year	Grants
1997	28 850
1998	— ^a
1999	40 505
2000	114 300
2001	174 415

^a No new contribution.

VIII. Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

20. For its consideration of the situation of the Fund, the Working Group had before it the reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/55/204) and to the Commission on Human Rights.⁴

21. In her opening statement, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights paid tribute to the non-governmental organizations for their dedication in supporting the activities of the Working Group and their fight for the protection and promotion of human rights. Their presence each year at the sessions of the Working Group was an important contribution to the meetings. She noted the close cooperation existing between the Board and the Group. By identifying in advance priority issues to be

discussed at its session, the Working Group helped the Board to make recommendations on the applications received in an informed and effective way. She had heard about Anita Khadka, who had come to Geneva three years ago to inform the members of the Working Group of the violence and abuses she had been exposed to. The young girl had been kidnapped at the age of 11, sold to a brothel in another country, forced into prostitution, beaten and infected with HIV/AIDS. Such testimonies were more striking and powerful than any statistics on the issue. They gave a name and face to trafficking in children. The High Commissioner was pleased with the presence and participation of community-based organizations and former victims, who gave to the Working Group a dynamism in its work, reliable information and a profound and important human dimension.

22. As no Board member was able to attend the twenty-sixth session at his or her own expense in 2001, the Working Group asked the secretariat of the Board and Fund to introduce briefly the documentation available, the beneficiaries of travel grants attending the session and the financial situation of the Fund.

23. The recommendations adopted by the Board at its sixth session, in conformity with the mandate of the Fund, aimed at providing financial assistance to representatives of local non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery and individuals whose human rights had been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery in order to enable them to attend the session. According to the selection criteria approved by the General Assembly and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the beneficiaries had to come from different regions, would not have been able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery. They were provided with airline tickets and a daily subsistence allowance to enable them to participate for three days in the deliberations of the Working Group. The Board took into consideration in particular that the Working Group had decided at its twenty-fifth session to examine as a matter of priority at its twenty-sixth session the issue of trafficking in persons, with the active participation of non-governmental organizations and victims of trafficking, in preparation for the proposed United

Nations year against trafficking in persons. The Board also took into consideration in its selection process that the Group had also decided to consider at its twenty-sixth session the question of debt bondage, the role of corruption in the perpetuation of slavery and slavery-like practices, problems affecting migrant workers, the protection of child labourers, forced labour, trafficking in human organs and issues, forced marriages, ways to combat sexual abuse of children and the need for adequate assistance to be provided to victims of such practices.

24. The travel grants were released before the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group. The following representatives of non-governmental organizations participated in the deliberations of the Working Group: Ana Salvado (on behalf of Casa Alianza-Covenant House Latin America, Costa Rica, on the situation in Central America of victims of sex tourism and action taken as a result of the visit to Guatemala of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on the sale of children and illegal trafficking in babies); Manimala Sinha (on behalf of Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sanstha, an action group for education, health, development and social mobilization, in Jaipur, India, on activities to rescue and rehabilitate girl children from sex trafficking); Esohe Aghatise (on behalf of Associazione Iroko, in Turin, Italy, on cultural, social and psychological aspects of the trafficking in Nigerian girls for prostitution); Pramod Kaphley (on behalf of the Group for International Solidarity, in Kathmandu, on solutions to bonded labour); Ek Raj Chaudhary (on behalf of Backward Society Education, in Dang, Nepal, who gave testimony as a former bonded labourer and on measures taken to abolish bonded labour), Mary Soledad Perpignan and Lolly Untalan (on behalf of the Third World Movement against the Exploitation of Women, in Quezon City, the Philippines, who replaced the three selected candidates, who could not attend, and reported on assistance to victims of sex trade and presented testimonies of victims of sex trafficking for prostitution on board ships and in slum areas); and Akoko Victoire Lawson (on behalf of the BICE branch in Togo, who spoke on activities in support of street porters).

25. The Working Group welcomed the testimonies and presentations made by the representatives of local organizations, who contributed to a deeper knowledge

on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery.

26. The secretariat of the Fund indicated that new contributions had already been paid by Brazil (\$10,000), Burkina Faso (\$1,369), the Holy See (\$1,000), Karen Parker, on behalf of the Association of Human Rights Lawyers (\$500) and the school children and teachers of the Istituto Tecnico Commerciale Oscar Romero in Albino, Italy (\$596). During the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group, a cheque for £2,000 was formally given to the Fund on behalf of pupils of the Archway School, Stroud, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as part of a programme called Schools Together and Action for Children Campaign (STACC). It was underlined that British and Italian students, associations and individuals had become regular donors, confirming the growing popular support for the Fund.

27. However, the attention of the Working Group and Governments represented was drawn by different participants to the recommendation of the Board according to which the Fund would need \$400,000 in new contributions before the end of the year 2001 in order for the Fund and Board to be able to recommend to the Secretary-General a sufficient number of new grants in 2002.

28. In a statement made at the twenty-sixth session, Bob Willey, a teacher at the Archway School in Stroud and coordinator of STACC, an organization in the United Kingdom seeking to unite schools and their students in activities that focus on development and human rights issues, said that students from the school and project had attended sessions of the Working Group since 1998. According to him, the students, when made aware of injustice, wished to bring about change and improvement as quickly as possible and it was the United Nations Fund that gave them the best opportunity to channel that energy. He also underlined that in 1998 the Fund had brought to Geneva a witness from Nepal, Anita Khadka, who had delivered a most powerful statement about her kidnapping, torture and enslavement as a prostitute from the age of 11. That personal statement from a 16-year-old girl had had a great effect on all those present. Sitting opposite her were two students from the Archway School, one girl aged 15 and the other 17. The former Chairperson of the Working Group, Halima Warzazi, had suggested to the young British students present that they help Ms. Kadka and other young girls assisted by Maiti-

Nepal, the association that was caring for her. Consequently, they had arranged to receive from Maiti-Nepal products made by girls there and had been able, through schools, to sell them and return \$1,500 to Maiti-Nepal. It was obvious to the students, however, that it was the presence of witnesses financed by the United Nations Fund that had touched and encouraged them to become involved in helping victims and the Working Group. In 2000, they had made a donation of \$1,020 to the Fund.⁵ According to his statement, the students felt embarrassed to note that their Government had made no contribution in recent years, unlike other Governments of the European Union. In 2001, they had been able to more than double their contribution to the Fund (£2,000). In that way they hoped to strengthen the Fund's ability to bring witnesses to denounce more issues of contemporary forms of slavery and, by their personal pressure and testimony, to encourage all Governments to act to eradicate such crimes. The Archway School was named after a memorial arch, erected privately in 1834 to mark the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. It had since been discovered that the arch was the only memorial in the United Kingdom to the abolition of slavery and plans were now well advanced for its restoration. With the help of STACC, the Stroud District Council, the local authority, had been given a national grant of £10,920 towards the cost of restoration. As part of the agreement for receiving that money the Council must demonstrate "a community involvement" in the issue of the arch. Part of that involvement would be the production by STACC students of an information leaflet on the history of the arch. The Council had also accepted the need for the issue of contemporary forms of slavery to be included in the leaflet. In addition there were plans for a street drama presentation on the issue of slavery and STACC students would take part, both in the writing and the performance.

IX. Needs assessment

29. Applications for grants received in 2001 amounted to about \$400,000. In the Board's view, in order to be able to satisfy all new applications envisaged for 2002 and to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need \$400,000 more before the seventh session of the Board, scheduled to be held during the last week of January 2001.

X. Recommendations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

30. In its resolution 2000/12 on the Fund, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights had noted with satisfaction the participation of a growing number of representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund and their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its twenty-fifth session, and encouraged their activities; expressed its appreciation to the donor Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals — in particular new donors — for their valuable contributions, and urged all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals to contribute annually in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively; emphasized the need for voluntary contributions to the Fund to be paid on a regular basis and, if possible, before the end of the current year, in order to enable the Board to recommend grants to assist representatives of organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group at its twenty-sixth session and finance projects of humanitarian assistance by non-governmental organizations in the field; encouraged the Board to finance non-governmental organizations from all the geographical regions in order to provide the widest possible view of contemporary forms of slavery in the world; invited the members of the Board in a position to do so to attend the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group and decided to continue to examine the situation and activities of the Fund at its fifty-third session, in 2001.

31. At its twenty-sixth session, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery recalled the close relationship between its mandate and activities and those of the Board and the necessary cooperation between them; expressed its gratitude to Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund and encouraged them to continue doing so; expressed its appreciation for the participation of eight representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund, including victims of contemporary forms of slavery, and for their valuable

contribution to its work; invited the Board to promote the participation at the annual sessions of the Working Group of individuals and organizations from as large a number of countries as possible, in accordance with the priorities established in its agenda; expressed its support for the work of the members of the Board, in particular their fund-raising activities; recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, urged them and non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund and encouraged them to do so in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in 2002; and decided to continue to examine the situation and the activities of the Fund at its twenty-seventh session.

32. In its resolution 2001/19, adopted on 16 August 2001 at its fifty-third session, the Subcommission expressed its gratitude to Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund and encouraged them to continue doing so; expressed its appreciation for the participation at the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group of eight representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund, including victims of contemporary forms of slavery, and for their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group; invited the Board to promote the participation at the annual sessions of the Working Group of individuals and organizations from as large a number of countries as possible, in accordance with the priorities established in the agenda of the Working Group; noted with satisfaction that 18 project grants had been paid by the Fund to local non-governmental organizations that worked on issues of contemporary forms of slavery; expressed its support for the work of the Board members, in particular their fund-raising activities; recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions, and urged them and non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals to contribute, in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2002; and decided to continue to examine the situation and the activities of the Fund at its fifty-fourth session.

XI. Fund-raising for the seventh session of the Board of Trustees

33. At its sixth session, the members of the Board of Trustees thanked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for having sent in October 2000 a letter appealing for new contributions to assist them in their fund-raising efforts. The Board recommended that the High Commissioner send a new letter of appeal to donors for additional contributions, to be paid, if possible, by the end of November 2001, to allow the Board to be able to recommend a sufficient number of grants at its seventh session, in January 2002. The High Commissioner approved that recommendation.

34. The Board also recommended at its sixth session that the Commission on Human Rights continue to give an opportunity to the Chairman or another member of the Board to deliver a brief speech under the relevant agenda item of the annual session of the Commission in order to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the Fund to the Commission and to inform the Commission about its work and the financial situation of the Fund and the activities of the Board.

35. In accordance with their mandate, the Board members continued to develop initiatives to make the activities of the Fund and Board better known and to obtain new contributions by, inter alia, widening the donor base and obtaining the support of young persons, the non-governmental organizations concerned and the public at large.

36. The Board encouraged interested donors not to make pledges, which cannot be taken into consideration by the Board when allocating grants, but to pay their voluntary contributions directly to the Fund, well in advance of the session and preferably before the end of November 2001.

XII. How to contribute to the Fund

37. Voluntary contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery may be made:

(a) By bank transfer to the United Nations Geneva General Fund:

(i) In United States dollars:

UBS AG
P. O. Box 2770
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Account number: 240-C-590-160.1
Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

(ii) In other currencies:

UBS AG
P. O. Box 2770
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

Account number: 240-C-590-160.0
Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

(b) By cheque to the order of the United Nations:

The Treasurer
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais de Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Donors should indicate "For the Slavery Fund, account SH" on any payment order.

38. To enable the Secretariat to follow up and inform the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommittee and Working Group, donors wishing to make a voluntary contribution are invited to inform the Fund's secretariat of their payment at:

Trust Funds Unit
Support Service Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights
United Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: + (41) (22) 917 91 64
+ (41) (22) 917 92 66
Facsimile: + (41) (22) 917 90 17

A copy of the bank transfer order or cheque would be useful.

Notes

¹ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/23, sect. VI.B, recommendation 4.

² See E/CN.4/2001/82/Add.1, annexes III and IV.

³ E/CN.4/2001/82/Add.1

⁴ E/CN.4/2001/82, on the fifth session of the Board, and E/CN.4/2001/82/Add.1, on its sixth session.

⁵ See E/CN.4/2001/82/Add.1, annex I.

Annex

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery: criteria, practices and guidelines

I. Beneficiaries from the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

1. According to the criteria established by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, the only beneficiaries from the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery shall be:

(a) Representatives from non-governmental organizations from different regions dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery wishing to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery:

(i) Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees;

(ii) Who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund;

(iii) Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery;

(b) Individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and who are so considered by the Board.

(c) Non-governmental organizations can apply for a maximum of two representatives;

(d) Gender balance should be taken into consideration when selecting representatives;

(e) The applicant must understand and speak English or French or Spanish;

(f) The applicant must submit by airmail the original of the application duly signed and dated;

(g) Applications should be encouraged from "all the geographical regions in order to provide the widest possible view of contemporary forms of slavery in the world", in accordance with resolution 2000/12 of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

(h) The organization should provide information on its legal status, year of foundation, aspects of contemporary forms of slavery that it deals with, specific experience and/or expertise in the relevant issues to be discussed at the Working Group, annual budget and other sources of funding;

(i) The organization should provide information on the responsibility of the applicant in the organization and on the theme of his or her presentation to the Working Group;

(j) The Board will not consider applications for which its secretariat has not received satisfactory information after a second reminder.

II. Travel grants

2. The Board has developed the following practices and guidelines:

(a) Application forms for travel grants should include a letter of nomination and recommendation signed by an executive official or body of the applicant's organization;

(b) The Board will take into consideration the main theme as well as other priority areas identified by the Working Group for its annual session;

III. Project grants

3. According to the criteria established by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, grants from the Fund shall be given to extend, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

4. In addition, the Board has developed the following practices and guidelines:

(a) A maximum of 15,000 United States dollars can be requested from the Fund for a project grant;

(b) As a rule, project grants should be allocated for direct assistance to the victims and local non-governmental organizations. Grants may be channelled by international non-governmental organizations, provided that they do not keep any part of the grant for their own activities;

(c) Gender balance should be taken into consideration;

(d) Applications should be encouraged from "all the geographical regions in order to provide the widest possible view of contemporary forms of slavery in the world", in accordance with Subcommission resolution 2000/12;

(e) Non-governmental organizations must submit by airmail the original of the application duly signed and dated;

(f) The organization should provide information on its present activities and aspects of contemporary forms of slavery that it deals with;

(g) If satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of a previous grant have not been received, a new grant cannot be released and should be kept pending;

(h) The Board will not consider applications for which its secretariat has not received satisfactory information after a second reminder;

(i) Project leaders should accept that the Board or a staff member may visit their projects for a better evaluation of the work planned and carried out.

7. Reporting on the use of voluntary contributions for travel grant and project grants consist of the reports of the Secretary-General on the Fund to the General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the annual meeting of the Board with donors and interested Governments and the annual meeting organized for donors by the secretariat of the Fund at the end of each year, at which all relevant reports and documents on the activities of the Fund are distributed and discussed.^a

Notes

^a See E/CN.4/2001/82, para. 20.

IV. Guidelines relating to voluntary contributions and reporting

5. Only voluntary contributions paid and duly registered by the United Nations Treasurer before the first day of its session are taken into consideration by the Board for recommending travel or project grants to the Secretary-General. Pledges are not taken into consideration for the allocation of grants.

6. Voluntary contributions to the Fund cannot be earmarked to specific travel or project grants.